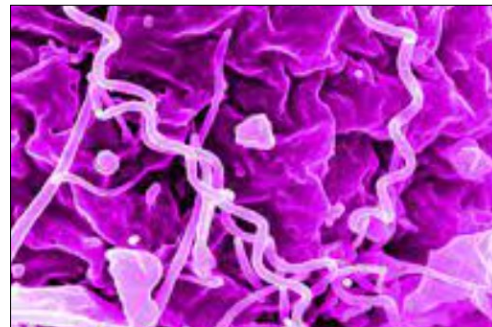


## Disease Matters

### Testing for Syphilis

Syphilis is a sexually transmitted disease that is caused by the *T. pallidum* bacteria. Through clinical findings, syphilis is categorized into stages. *Primary syphilis* is identified with ulcers and chancres at the site of infection, but other signs can present themselves as well. *Secondary syphilis* usually includes a skin rash, lesions that contain mucus, and swollen lymph nodes. *Tertiary syphilis* can be identified with cardiac issues, tumor-like lesions, muscle weakness, and abnormal sensations. Syphilis can also cause issues in the central nervous, visual, and auditory systems.

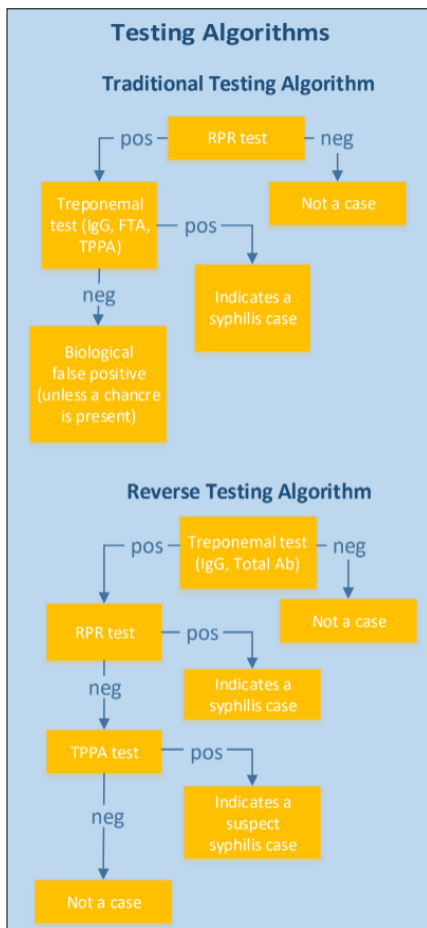
When using laboratory tests to diagnose syphilis, using the correct tests is crucial. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), a presumptive diagnosis of syphilis requires two laboratory



*T. pallidum* bacteria that causes syphilis.  
Source of image: NIAID

serologic tests: a nontreponemal test and a treponemal test. Using only one serologic test is insufficient for diagnosis. A person who receives a reactive nontreponemal test should receive a treponemal test to confirm the diagnosis.

Figure 1. Testing Algorithms



#### Types of Tests

The types of nontreponemal serologic tests are rapid plasma regain (RPR) and Venereal Disease Research Laboratory (VDRL).

The types of treponemal serologic tests are *Treponema pallidum* particle agglutination (TP-PA), fluorescent treponemal antibody test absorption test (FTA-ABS), treponemal enzyme immunoassay (EIA) and treponemal chemiluminescence immunoassay (CIA).

When testing to determine a diagnosis, using testing algorithm can help determine a positive or negative syphilis case (see Figure 1). For more information, visit the Utah Department of Health Syphilis disease plan (<https://bit.ly/3tRSH1q>) or the CDC STI Treatment guidelines (<https://bit.ly/3i0mU96>).

### Need to Report a Communicable Disease?



Call Davis County  
Health Department at  
801-525-5220



Or fax the [information](#)  
to 801-525-5210

# Seasonal Matters

## Vector-Borne Diseases

As the spring season continues, people will begin to spend more time outdoors. Recreational activity is important, but it is also necessary to take proper precautions against vector-borne and zoonotic diseases. Vector-borne diseases (VBDs) are passed to humans from mosquitoes, ticks, and fleas. The most widely known VBDs within the United States are West Nile virus, Lyme disease, and Rocky Mountain spotted fever.

The best way to protect against VBDs is to use Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-registered insect repellents; wearing long sleeve shirts and pants when outdoors; and limiting time spent outdoors from dusk to dawn. When used as directed, EPA-registered insect repellents are proven safe, and effective, even for pregnant and breastfeeding women. Use insect repellents that contain one of these active ingredients: DEET, picaridin, IR3535, oil of lemon eucalyptus, para-menthane-diol, or 2-undecanone.

Visit the [CDC webpage on preventing mosquito bites](#) for more information.

# Number Matters

## Selected Notifiable Diseases, 2022 & 2021

	2022* Year-to-Date	2021 Year-to-Date (Total)	% Increase or Decrease Year-to-Date
Campylobacteriosis	10	7(48)	42.9% ↑
Chlamydia	256	248(940)	3.2% ↑
Gonorrhea	67	74(260)	9.5% ↓
Hepatitis A	1	0(1)	100% ↑
Hepatitis B, acute & chronic	2	3(11)	33.3% ↓
Hepatitis C, acute & chronic	28	29(127)	3.4% ↓
Mumps	0	0(0)	0.0% ↔
Measles	0	0(0)	0.0% ↔
Meningococcal disease	0	0(0)	0.0% ↔
Pertussis	1	0(7)	100% ↑
Salmonellosis	4	4(31)	0.0% ↔
Shiga-toxin producing E. coli	2	5(33)	60.0% ↓
Shigellosis	1	1(6)	0.0% ↔
Syphilis, all stages	9	8(36)	12.5% ↑
Tuberculosis, active disease	0	0(1)	0.0% ↔
Tuberculosis, latent infection	20	20(74)	0.0% ↔

\*2022 data is provisional and subject to change

# Staff Matters

Over the past few months, Davis County Health Department had several staff changes.

We said goodbye to **Caitlin Pratt** and **Jessica Lambertsen**. Caitlin and Jessica excelled in their roles here at Davis County Health Department and served our community well. We appreciate all their hard work and devotion. We wish them the best on their new adventures!

We recently added **Marney O'Brien** as a new communicable disease health educator. She will be conducting the sexual education curriculum at the Clearfield Job Corps, as well as addressing other health education needs.

# Calendar Matters

April 4—10: National Public Health Week

April 7: World Health Day

April 22: Earth Day

May 8: Mother's Day

May 8—14: National Women's Health Week

May 10: Board of Health

May 30: Memorial Day

June 19: Father's Day

June 19: Juneteenth

June 20: Juneteenth Observed

June 27: National HIV Testing Day



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